

## Kelso Depot Guide to School Programs

The following programs are available for school groups visiting Kelso Depot Visitor Center. Programs must be arranged 1 month ahead of your visit.

Contact: Rana Knighten

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Availability: Kelso Depot is open Friday – Tuesday, 9:00am – 5:00pm. Closed on Wednesday and Thursday

### Awesome Adaptations:

Do you know what it takes to survive in the Mojave Desert? In this program, students will learn about some of the animals that live in this harsh desert environment and the many strategies they must employ. Students will learn the difference between physical and behavioral adaptations. Specialized desert plants, such as cacti and Joshua trees help students to learn about photosynthesis and respiration. Students will get a chance to see and touch various teaching tools including several plant and animal specimens. Grade Level: Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup>

Program Length: 30 minutes

### Native American Plant Traditions

The Mojave and Chemehuevi Indians thrived in the Mojave Desert before European contact. Their rich cultures and traditions were possible thanks to a vast knowledge of their environment. Traditional uses of common Mojave Desert plants are discussed as well as the cultural traditions that necessitated them. Students will be able to see, touch, smell, and sometimes taste several desert plants as we learn about the ways they were harvested and utilized for food, shelter, goods, and medicine.

Grade Level: 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>

Program Length: 45 minutes

### Mojave Desert Stories

Mojave National Preserve still bears witness to the stories of the miners, ranchers, homesteaders, railroaders, and Native Americans that lived here. In this program, students will learn about the different groups of people who made their homes in the Mojave Desert. Students will uncover the

historic period between 1850 and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as they explore the different motives that brought these people to the Mojave and the challenges they faced.

Grade Level: Kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup>

Program Length: 30 minutes – 1 hour, depending on grade level

### Creepy Crawly Desert Dwellers

The Mojave Desert is full of amazing creatures that creep, crawl, and slither. From tarantulas and scorpions, to snakes and lizards, we will learn about some of the most commonly misunderstood desert dwellers and discover why we need them after all.

Grade Level: Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup>

Program Length: 20-30 minutes

### Water, Water Everywhere?

The Desert is a land shaped by water and yet water is one of the scarcest resources here. Students will examine this paradigm as we uncover some of the geologic processes that shaped the surrounding landscape. Geologic time will be discussed and we will look at mineral specimens from the area. We will discuss the past, present, and future effects of water on the Mojave Desert.

Grade Level: 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

Program Length: 1 hour